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FBI Very Unhappy with Ramsey Clark

WASHINGTON — The deep-seated unhappiness of J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation with its boss, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, was aggravated by Clark's misleading public optimism about a quick solution of the Martin Luther King murder.

FBI agents working on the King case grumbled privately that Mr. Clark's repeated statements hinting at imminent capture of Dr. King's assassin were not justified by the actual progress of the investigation. On the contrary, some agents complained that what legitimate information the attorney general did let drop risked drying up the killer's trail.

In Justice Department conferences, Mr. Clark justified his contribution to the credibility gap on the grounds that optimistic talk about closing the case "would help morale"—that is, down Negro anger in the turbulent days immediately following the murder.

Simultaneously, there is considerable skepticism inside the Justice Department and FBI that the present renewed investigation of black power extremist Stokely Carmichael will result in any action.

FBI agents are making detailed probes into Carmichael's role in fomenting the Washington, D.C., riots of April 4-6 following King's death, but will never push for a Carmichael prosecution. The Justice Department staff overwhelmingly recommended a year ago that the government seek an indictment of Carmichael, but the attorney general vetoed the advice on grounds that it would only make him a martyr.